

Delhi reports record 49C
Residents asked to stay in as heatwave sweeps through northern India

AGENCIES

The maximum temperature recorded in the national capital reached 49 degree Celsius, the India Meteorological Department said yesterday, as intense heatwave is sweeping through northern part of the country.

While the national capital's Mungeshpur station recorded a temperature of 49.2 degrees, Najafgarh recorded 49.1 degree Celsius.

The weather agency advised people in northern India to avoid venturing outside their homes unless absolutely essential and to drink plenty of water even if not thirsty.

The states of Himachal Pradesh, Haryana, Uttarakhand, Punjab, and Bihar have particularly witnessed soaring temperatures in the past few days.

Temperatures are likely to fall by 2-4C in some areas but there may not be any respite from intense heat, said the Met department.

Weather station at Safdarjung observed a max temperature of 45.6 degrees Celsius while the west part of Delhi reported temperatures ranging between 46 to 48 degrees Celsius.

On May 29, 1944, Safdarjung recorded a max temperature of 47.2 degrees Celsius, reports NDTV online.

Maximum temperatures reached 47.5 degrees Celsius at Jafarpur, 47.3 degrees Celsius at Pitampura and 47.2 degrees Celsius at Ridge.

Other parts of Delhi observed maximum temperatures rise to 46.8 degrees Celsius at Ayanagar, 46.4 degrees Celsius at Palam and 45.8 degrees Celsius at Lodhi Road, the weather agency said.

In Haryana, Gurgaon recorded the highest temperature yesterday amongst other stations which are 48.1 degrees Celsius and Mukhtsar in Punjab reported 47.4 degrees Celsius.



Protesters take part in an anti-government demonstration outside the Sri Lanka police headquarters in Colombo yesterday, demanding the arrest of government supporters who allegedly assaulted peaceful demonstrators amid ongoing economic crisis.

PHOTO: AFP

Sri Lanka out of petrol

PM tells crisis-hit nation, warns of more hardship ahead

AFP, Colombo

Crisis-hit Sri Lanka has run out of petrol and is unable to find dollars to finance essential imports, the new prime minister said yesterday in an address to the nation.

"We have run out of petrol... At the moment, we only have petrol stocks for a single day," Ranil Wickremesinghe said, warning his bankrupt country could face more hardships in the

coming months.

He said the government was also unable to raise dollars to pay for three shipments of oil, with the ships awaiting outside the Colombo harbour for payments before discharging their cargoes.

"The next couple of months will be the most difficult ones of our lives," Wickremesinghe said. "I have no desire to hide the truth and to lie to the public."

However, he urged people to

"patiently bear the next couple of months" and vowed he could overcome the crisis.

He said the government had also run out of cash to pay the 1.4 million civil servants their salaries in May, and he will turn to money printing as a last resort.

He also warned that fuel and electricity tariffs will be raised substantially and his government will also sell off its loss-making national carrier to reduce losses.



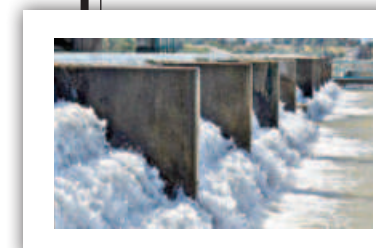
India, Nepal agree to build power plant

REUTERS, Kathmandu

India and Nepal will build a 695 megawatt hydropower plant, officials said yesterday, as the Himalayan nation looks to exploit its abundant potential to generate clean energy to ease power shortages.

India is investing billions of dollars in infrastructure including hydropower plants, as New Delhi looks to grow its influence in its smaller neighbours, where China is also increasingly active. The Arun IV project will be jointly built on the Arun River in Nepal's east by India's Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam (SJVN) Ltd SJVN.

NS and Nepal's state-owned Nepal Electricity Authority (NEA) owing 51% and 49% of equity respectively, NEA spokesperson said. The power plant agreement is among six deals concluded between India and Nepal during PM Modi's fifth visit to the Himalayan nation yesterday.



N Korea orders army to help Covid response

AFP, Seoul

North Korea's Kim Jong Un criticised "irresponsible" officials over the country's pandemic response and ordered the army to help distribute medicine, state media said yesterday, as Seoul offered Covid-19 aid. More than a million people have been ill with what Pyongyang refers to as "fever", state media said, despite leader Kim ordering nationwide lockdowns in a bid to slow the spread of disease through the unvaccinated population.



"Partners need to make decisions that limit Russia's ties to the world every week. The occupiers must feel the rising cost of war for them, feel it constantly."

Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelensky

'Hate remains a stain on soul of America'

Biden on Buffalo mass shooting

AFP, Buffalo

Grieving Buffalo residents held vigils Sunday after a white gunman who officials have branded "pure evil" shot dead 10 people at a grocery store in a "racist" rampage.

President Joe Biden condemned the racist extremism and "hate that remains a stain on the soul of America."

The police commissioner for the US city in western New York, Joseph Gramaglia, told reporters the 18-year-old suspect did "reconnaissance" on the predominantly Black area surrounding Tops Friendly Market and drove there from his hometown of Conklin, more than 200 miles (322 kilometers) away.

Wearing heavy body armor and wielding an AR-15 assault rifle, the shooter killed 10 people and wounded three others - almost all of them Black - before threatening to turn the gun on himself. Police said officers talked the gunman down before arresting him.

The suspect, identified as Payton Gendron, was arraigned late Saturday on a single count of first-degree murder and held without bail, the Erie County district attorney's office said.



Dozens killed in Burkina attacks

AFP, Ouagadougou

Around 40 people, many of them civilian volunteers with the army, have been killed in suspected jihadist attacks in Burkina Faso, local sources and security officials said yesterday.

In the northern region of Sahel, around 25 people were killed in two assaults on Saturday, including 13 members of the VDP volunteers, a leader of the force told AFP.

In Komiengha, near Burkina's southeastern border with Togo and Benin, about 15 civilians were killed on Saturday when their convoy was attacked while under VDP escort, a security source in the region said.

A local inhabitant said three VDP volunteers also died in this attack, and called for help for the wounded, which he said numbered nearly a dozen.

In another raid overnight Saturday, assailants carried out a coordinated attack on police and gendarmes' posts in Faramana, near the frontier with Mali, causing two wounded, a security source said.

One of the poorest countries in the world, Burkina Faso has been battered by jihadist raids since 2015, when insurgents began mounting cross-border attacks from Mali.

More than 2,000 people have died and almost two million fled their homes.

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